TRENDS

ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
50 F Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001
(202) 639-2555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 16, 1992 -- All three general measures of rail traffic were up during the week ended April 11 from the corresponding 1991 week, the seventh consecutive week that has happened, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

The largest gain -- 11.9 percent -- was recorded in intermodal movements of trailers and containers on flatcars, the AAR said. Estimated ton-miles increased 3.5 percent to 20.6 billion. Carloadings totaled 330,239, up 0.4 percent from the 1991 week, with carloadings in the East registering a 1.8 percent gain and carloadings in the West declining by 1.2 percent.

"This week's figures seem to mirror the mixed signals of the economy where retail sales are up, inventories are down, and the recovery gives indication of being modest and slow," said Dr. Harvey A. Levine, vice president for economics and finance at the AAR.

"While automobile traffic, and to a lesser extent, housing-related traffic are on the upswing, there are disturbing traffic levels among many of the other commodities. Hopefully, the recent drop in short-term interest rates will stimulate economic activity in the remainder of the year," Dr. Levine added.

The AAR reported cumulative carloadings for the first 15 weeks of 1992 of 4,789,713, up 1.8 percent from 1991. Revenue ton-miles were estimated to total 306.9, up 4.6 percent. Intermodal volume totaled 1,838,121 trailers and containers, up 6.6 percent from 1991.

The railroads reporting to the AAR account for 94 percent of rail carloadings and 97 percent of intermodal loadings.

(more)

WEEKLY TRAFFIC OF MAJOR RAILROADS
FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 1992

CARLOADS ORIGINATED, BY COMMODITY GROUP

COMMODITY	WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 1992	COMPARISON WITH SAME WEEK OF 1991	CHANGE	COMPARISON WITH PRECEDING WEEK	CHANGE
Grain	28,477	26,415	7.8 %	29,321	-2.9 %
Farm Products, Ex. Grain	1,667	1,119	49.0	1,854	-10.1
Metallic Ores	17,313	18,582	-6.8	15,898	8.9
Coal	120,065	121,337	-1.0	111,993	7.2
Crushed Stone, Sand & Gravel	13,631	15,185	-10.2	12,959	5.2
Nonmetallic Minerals	9,353	8,112	15.3	9,016	3.7
Grain Mill Products	10,294	10,364	-0.7	10,377	-0.8
Food & Kindred Products	9,084	8,825	2.9	9,534	-4.7
Primary Forest Products	9,499	8,900	6.7	9,459	0.4
Lumber & Wood Products	5,494	5,632	-2.5	5,715	-3.9
Pulp, Paper & Allied Products	10,325	10,051	2.7	10,778	-4.2
Chemicals	30,646	33,021	-7.2	30,662	-0.1
Petroleum Products	5,318	5,345	-0.5	4,830	10.1
Stone, Clay & Glass Products	9,441	10,519	-10.2	8,938	5.6
Coke	5,347	4,777	11.9	5,468	-2.2
Metals & Products	9,462	9,886	-4.3	10,286	-8.0
Motor Vehicles & Equipment	18,959	16,205	17.0	18,131	4.6
Waste & Scrap Materials	9,032	8,134	11.0	8,441	7.0
All Other Carloads	6,922	6,755	2.5	6,611	4.7
Total	**330,329**	**329,164**	**0.4 %**	**320,271**	**3.1 %**

SUMMARY: CARLOADS ORIGINATED, INTERMODAL TRAFFIC AND ESTIMATED TON-MILES

TRAFFIC	WEEK ENDING APRIL 11, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE	CUMULATIVE: 15 WEEKS ENDING APRIL 11, 1992 1992	1991	CHANGE
Carloads Originated	330,329	329,164	0.4 %	4,789,713	4,706,691	1.8 %
Intermodal Traffic Originated						
Trailers	63,374	58,345	8.6	901,044	894,217	0.8
Containers	64,274	55,749	15.3	937,077	830,153	12.9
Total	127,648	114,094	11.9	1,838,121	1,724,370	6.6
Estimated Ton-Miles						
Class I Railroads (Billions)	20.6	19.9	3.5 %	306.9	293.5	4.6 %

NOTES: Effective with Week 15, CSX Transportation figures include RFP. CSXT's traffic for prior weeks is the sum of CSXT's and RFP's traffic. Traffic interchanged between these roads prior to Week 15 has not been excluded from "received" traffic.

Carloadings are estimated for: Week 15, 1992 - GTW & TM; Week 14, 1992 - GTW.

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